

Application No.: 10/629172

Case No.: 50335US012

Amendments to the Claims:

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-25 (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A method for recovering an image from a document having an image ~~covered by a security laminate~~, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a document having an at least partially light-transmissive first layer and a second layer located below the first layer, the second layer including at least one image;

(b) ~~(a)~~ illuminating the image with a light source;

(c) ~~(b)~~ recovering the image with a video image receiver to provide a source image;

(d) ~~(c)~~ comparing the source image with at least one stored image that is stored in a computer; and

(e) ~~(d)~~ providing an output signal comprising information about the source image.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the image comprises at least one of typewritten characters, printing, a bar code, a photograph, or handwriting.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the light source emits light within the visible portion of the spectrum.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the light source emits light within the infrared portion of the spectrum.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the image is visible to the video image receiver under infrared light.

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31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the light source emits light within the ultraviolet portion of the spectrum.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the image is visible to the video image receiver under ultraviolet light.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the light source emits polarized light.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the image is a picture of a person's face, and the stored image is also of a person's face, and step (c) comprises comparing the source image to the stored image to provide information about whether the two pictures are of the same person.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the image is of a signature, and the stored image is also of a signature, and step (c) comprises comparing the source image to the stored image to provide information about whether the two signatures are substantially the same.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the method further comprises:

(e) sending the output signal to a personal computer.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the document is a passport or an identification card.

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38. (Currently Amended) A method for recovering an image from a document having an image ~~covered by a security laminate~~, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a document having an at least partially light-transmissive first layer and a second layer located below the first layer, the second layer including at least one image;

(b) ~~(a)~~ illuminating the image with a light source;

(c) ~~(b)~~ recovering the image with a video image receiver to provide a source image;

(d) ~~(c)~~ comparing the source image with at least one predetermined image that is stored in a computer; and

(e) ~~(d)~~ providing an output signal comprising information about the source image.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the image comprises at least one of typewritten characters, printing, a bar code, a photograph, or handwriting.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the light source emits light within the visible portion of the spectrum.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the light source emits light within the infrared portion of the spectrum.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, wherein the image is visible to the video image receiver under infrared light.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the light source emits light within the ultraviolet portion of the spectrum.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the image is visible to the video image receiver under ultraviolet light.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the light source emits polarized light.

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46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the image is a picture of a person's face, and the predetermined image is also of a person's face, and step (c) comprises comparing the source image to the predetermined image to provide information about whether the two pictures are of the same person.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the image of a signature, and the predetermined image is also of a signature, and step (c) comprises comparing the source image to the predetermined image to provide information about whether the two signatures are substantially the same.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the method further comprises:

(e) sending the output signal to a personal computer.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the document is a passport or an identification card.